

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Canada

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Canada Consults on Humane Transportation of Animals

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Health of Animals Regulations, the section that deals with humane transportation of animals. Interested stakeholders should submit their comments by February 15, 2017.

General Information:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Health of Animals Regulations, the section that deals with humane transportation of animals. The proposed rules can be found in [Canada Gazette - Part I](#), together with a detailed analysis of the amendments.

Interested stakeholders should submit their comments by **February 15, 2017 to:**

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Animal Welfare, Biosecurity and Assurance Programs Section
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive, 3rd Floor West, Room 231
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According to the CFIA, protecting animal welfare in Canada is a shared responsibility between governments (federal, provincial and territorial), industry (e.g. producers, transporters, processors, registered slaughter establishments) and the public; these proposed regulations are the product of ten years of consultation with industry, the public and special interest groups.

The CFIA also indicates that the proposed amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations would significantly improve alignment with the OIE (the World Organization for Animal Health) animal welfare standards for animals transported by land, air and sea. Furthermore, based on a comparative review, CFIA states that the proposals respecting feed, water and rest would align Canada's regulatory outcomes more closely with those of its trading partners, such as New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the European Union (EU).

The proposed regulatory changes would:

- Move towards a more outcome-based regulatory framework giving regulated parties greater flexibility to apply technological advances in transportation
- Clarify expectations and better reflect new science regarding the care and handling of animals, thereby reducing the risk to animal welfare during loading, transportation, and unloading
- Provide clarification by adding definitions (for example definitions of compromised and unfit animals) and establishing clear requirements for regulated parties to better understand what is expected of them
- Improve animal welfare and reduce the risk of suffering during transportation by establishing clear and science-informed requirements that better reflect animal needs and current industry practices.